



"The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence".

Confucius

Fall 2008 Fighting Saints Leader



FSB Cadre and Cadets at the 2008 Dining-In



What's Inside:

◇ From the PMS and SMI	pg 2
◇ Army 10 Miler	pg 3
◇ Ranger Challenge	pg 3
◇ Alumni Gathering	pg 4
◇ New 2LTs	pg 4
◇ Initial Week	pg 5
◇ Spring FTX	pg 5
◇ Veterans Day Parade	pg 5
◇ Sights from Fall 2008	pg 6-7
◇ Alumni News	pg 8

2008 Dining-In

By Cadet Angela Carlson

After countless hours of preparation and squaring away of Class A's, the Fighting Saints Battalion finally gathered for their annual Dining-In event. The Dining-In is a traditional event held to celebrate military history and build camaraderie after working hard all fall semester. This year the event was yet again marked by laughter and fun.

President of the Mess Cadet Rindahl along with Mr. Vice, Cadet Treanor, led the entertainment with the traditional Grog ceremony headed by Master of the Punch, Cadet Loher. Mr. Vice,

from the moment of completion of the grog (a mixture of numerous substances that represent America's first battles), made sure all discrepancies were found and that those who violated the rules of the mess were dealt with justly (via drinking from the grog).

Between the drinking of the grog, various old games (combat twister), new games (orange balls), and finally the highlighting of hilarious events of the semester with the unique MS class skits, again made the Dining-In a successful side-splitting evening.

Cadet Commander's Corner

By Cadet LTC Aaron Rindahl

We are now closing out another great semester. It has been an immense privilege as well an honor to be the Cadet Battalion Commander for this semester. I hope all of the cadets in the Fighting Saints Battalion have had an opportunity to learn and grow as much as I have through this grand organization. Taking a look back at this semester, we have been able to have some fun events such as the welcome back picnic and Dining-In. We have had opportunities to conduct some important training at the Fall FTX and other leadership labs. All of these events are designed to build cadets into the leaders that they will one

day become. As we transition into the next semester I would like to take a moment to say farewell to those cadets who will be graduating this fall and beginning their career. First, Cadet Tatone will be graduating with his degree in nursing and will be going on to be a great Army nurse. Next, Cadet Gimm is going to be an Engineer officer and will be staying in the Army Reserves with the 367th Engineer Battalion in Brainerd, MN. Lastly I will be commissioning this semester as well. I will be drilling in Bloomington, MN as a Military Police officer.

Continued on page 8.

From the Professor of Military Science

LTC James C. Fischer



What an incredible semester! Our program is at its largest size in a very long time which has proven to be a great challenge. I think we have handled it well. The MS IVs have played a huge role in this success helping train MS

IIIs, coach MS IIs, and mentor MS Is. We have expected a lot from them and they have delivered. I am grateful for their efforts. I am also thankful for those “veteran” Cadets who keep coming back for more, pushing themselves to excel. They show character in their perseverance. Most of all, I am impressed by our new Cadets who stepped on this path to leadership excellence often not really knowing what to expect. They have faced this unknown with guts and determination.

I hope my descriptions show you how much I respect these young Americans. I push them every day to improve and every day I am more impressed with their proven ability and demon-

strated potential for leadership.

There is more great news this semester. Captain Tom Krenz joined us after completing his second tour in Iraq. He will help with training and instruct MS Is. Captain Joe Berube continues in his XO role and will also teach MS Is. Our teams have done well. We earned awards for making our Cadet Command missions. We commissioned three outstanding new Second Lieutenants. We have plenty of prospects seeking to join us. Our alums are doing well inside the Army and out.

Unfortunately, not all news is so positive. LTC Zeitler was extended in Afghanistan and is now scheduled to return this summer. Some Cadets could not meet our standards or did not want to be part of us anymore and moved on to other opportunities. We wish them all the best for the future. As I have said in the past, we do not rubber stamp and this is not a cake walk. Our Soldiers deserve only the best leaders who are

willing and able to meet the Army’s standards.

I will tell you for the record: success or setback, strength or weakness, good days or bad, these are amazing people we have here. They do well. This has much more to do with their character and quality than mine or the Cadre’s. We just refine and finish the excellent raw material that comes to us. I remain confident that the lieutenants who complete this program are as good, if not better, than any in the Army. We get feedback that confirms it.

Family, friends, and guests are always welcome. We are already planning for the military ball, the trip to New Mexico for Bataan, and the trip to Gettysburg. Any support you could provide would be appreciated; consider joining AUSA. My thanks to our Guardian Angels and all our parents. Please remember all those serving abroad.

From the Senior Military Instructor

MSG Keith H. Arnold



Fighting Saints, we have come to a good place to catch our breath from a busy semester. This past semester we have conducted an FTX where we had an opportunity to train on the Engagement Skills Trainer, conduct practical night land navigation, and be challenged by elements and patrolling and STX lanes. We also incorporated the basic fundamentals of movement. This was capped off by a five mile foot march back to the cantonment area for re-fit operations. The Corps of Cadets have shown a significant improvement in each training session. MS I’s and II’s want to be challenged with more responsibility and the MS III’s are finding their rhythm of leading and executing the task for the Battalion. The MS IV’s are finding the test of planning and coordinating for each and every event can be very demanding. The past semester has shown that the Fighting Saints are more than up to the rigors of training hard and maintaining focus on education. I am certain that the MS III’s and IV’s remember Ranger Challenge. This year it was our turn to host the event at Camp Ripley. Along with some cadre assistance our advanced lab cadets did a fine job putting

together and coordinating all the requirements to put on a first class training event. A large group of our Saints represented the battalion during the Ranger Challenge competition. The two day event was comprised of physical and technical skills. After starting with a record APFT, the teams moved into a group of round robin events that consisted of M16 qualification, assembly and disassembly of an M16, grenade assault course, orienteering, patrolling, and the one rope bridge. The event finished with a demanding 10 kilometer foot march. Our teams competed with the best cadets from six other programs in our area. The demanding training schedule and the time each member of the team sacrificed to improve their performance earned my utmost admiration. Both teams can be looked on as a source of pride for their dedication and effort throughout the competition. Another training event that we have absolutely excelled at throughout the semester was our tradition of having a color guard at specific events. We provided the colors for all the St. John’s home football games as well as events at St. Cloud State and St. Benedict’s. The professionalism of our cadets has inspired the fans and brought great credit upon the Fighting Saints Battalion. Many cadets have volunteered for the

honor to present the colors at these events. I would like to recognize one cadet in particular who has had a hand in each event by either marching or assisting in the training of her fellow cadets. Cadet Sauve has distinguished herself through her efforts to represent the Fighting Saints with the highest degree of expertise. Returning from our Christmas break, our team training focus will turn to the Bataan Memorial March in White Sands, NM. We anticipate taking approximately 15 cadets there to represent the battalion. The purpose of the event is to show respect for those veterans of the Bataan Death March and Corregidor. Thousands of American and Philippine Soldiers were forced to surrender after running out of supplies and the means to defend themselves. The resulting event happens to be one of the darkest chapters in World War II for the United States. Finally I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and safe holiday season. Never forget that you are a representative of your family and the Fighting Saints Battalion. Enjoy your time with your loved ones and return safely and as motivated as you have been for the last semester.

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The Race Has Begun

By Cadet Adam Larson

During the weekend of October 4-7, four Fighting Saints Battalion Cadets travelled to Washington, D.C. for the 24th Annual Army Ten Miler. The event, the largest ten-mile race in the country, was held on the morning of Sunday, October 5th. During the course of the race, which begins and ends at the Pentagon, runners pass such D.C. landmarks as the White House, the Federal Reserve, and the Vietnam War Memorial. Representing the Fighting Saints were MSIV Cadets Cody Martin and Aaron Rindahl and MSIII's Adam Larson and John Oemig. They finished with an average time of approximately seventy minutes and handily defeated their University of Minnesota rivals. Fighting Saints cadre members Mr. Alberto DeJesus and Lieutenant Colonel Fischer also participated in the race.

The trip to Washington included more than just the race itself. On Monday, Cadets had the opportunity to attend the Annual Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Convention, which included a presentation from AUSA and an Expo which included exhibits from dozens of defense contractors. The cadets also attended the ROTC Luncheon that day in which TRADOC Commander General William Wallace gave the keynote speech.

Among unstructured activities, cadets typically toured the landmarks and memorials of Washington, D.C. and attended the Football Party the night of the Convention. The trip, which only a select few cadets from across the country have the opportunity to attend, is considered a unique privilege among cadets. Such an opportunity, therefore, should never be passed up.

If you are interested in joining our AUSA subchapter #5401-93 please contact Mr. DeJesus at 320-308-3930 or visit the AUSA website www.vessey5401.org/



2008 Ranger Challenge Competition

By Cadet Cody Martin



This year the Fighting Saints Battalion sent two teams to the annual Ranger Challenge competition at Camp Ripley. FSB cadets also coordinated and ran the completion for all the schools. A total of ten teams competed in several events throughout the weekend. These events consisted of the Army Physical Fitness Test, Orienteering, Patrolling, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Hand Grenade Assault Course, One-Rope Bridge, Weapon Assembly/Disassembly, and a 10k ruck run. The black team had strong finishes in the 10k run, Weapon Assembly/Disassembly, Patrolling, the Hand Grenade Assault Course, and finished in an overall fourth place. The gold team had a good showing in orienteering and finished eighth place overall.

The teams began training for the competition back in August. Training consisted of physical fitness in the mornings for five days a week and practice for each of the events in the afternoons four days a week. The 18 cadets who participated in the competition put in a lot of time and hard work during the months leading up to the competition itself and it showed in their performance.

The goal for the Ranger Challenge team is to improve from one year to the next and this year's team did just that. This year's team was young, which means that next year they will be able to use their experience to build on the lessons that were learned this year. I would like to congratulate the team for meeting the challenge and thank the cadre for their support.

You can also see a video on our website.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1-ZTxm_9GI

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1-ZTxm_9GI



2008 Ranger Challenge Black Team



2008 Ranger Challenge Gold Team

Congratulations to our Newest Second Lieutenants

The end of the 2008 Fall Semester was a pivotal time for three cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion. It marked an important transition of three young cadets to lieutenants.

The accumulation of over four successful years through ROTC led to the commissioning of Alex Tatone, Aaron Rindahl, and Daniel Gimm as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. This was a pivotal moment for these young men as it pointed them toward a new direction in their lives as an army officer. They successfully completed all necessary training as a cadet to have the honor of earning the bar of gold. They will now move on to further training at BOLC II and continue to the Officer Basic Course of their selected branch before arriving at their first duty station.

The commissioning ceremony was a special event attended by family, friends and fellow cadets. Guests of honor included parents, President Earl Potter of SCSU, the past commander of the 34th "Red Bull" Division, Major General (Retired) Ricky Erlandson and our brigade commander, Colonel Michael Gunn. On behalf of the Fighting Saints Battalion, we congratulate them on a job well done, we wish these newly commissioned lieutenant's the best of luck in their careers as military officers.



Alex Tatone - Nurse Corps



Aaron Rindahl - Military Police



Daniel Gimm - Corps of Engineers



2LT's Daniel Gimm, Aaron Rindahl and Alex Tatone.



LTC Fischer administers Oath of Office to Cadet Daniel Gimm.



CPT Osterhaus administers Oath of Office to Cadet Aaron Rindahl.



MAJ Errington administers Oath of Office to Cadet Alex Tatone.



FSB Cadre and newly commissioned Lieutenants.



MG (R) Erlandson delivers a powerful speech on leadership.



Voice of the Army Support for the Soldier

Consider joining the Norberg sub chapter of AUSA Since 1950, the Association of the United States Army has worked to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve. AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members.

AUSA provides our cadets numerous Professional Development Opportunities at a variety of events both local and national.

Our chapter is named in honor of Jeremy Norberg, a cadet who tragically died in a car accident two months shy of receiving his commission. He was a fine example of the seven Army values and was posthumously appointed a Second Lieutenant.

See the Minnesota chapter's website at www.vessey5401.org/ or call Major Errington @ (320) 363- 2342 to learn more.

Never Forget

By Cadet Caroline North

The rainy weather fit perfectly with the somber attitude surrounding the September 11th Community Commemoration Ceremony held in St. Cloud, MN. Despite the weather several members of the community including the local and surrounding area police departments, EMT staffs, fire fighters and citizens made their way to Fire Station 1 in downtown St. Cloud to honor those fallen 7 years ago. The ceremony started with the FSB Color Guard along with the Central MN Women in the Military Unit posting the Colors, followed by the usual accompaniments of memorial ceremonies, the singing of the National Anthem, invocation, remarks, and closing. Along with the ceremony, the city of St. Cloud posted wreaths for each branch that assisted the victims of the terrorist attack that befell our country that infamous day. While we may not have directly been involved, Minnesotans everywhere did their part, whether it was lining up at the blood donation banks, or donating money and supplies. Along with that, nearly all of Minnesota's National Guard and Reserve troops have served in The Global War on Terror since March of 2003. Though St. Cloud resides a long way from the tragedy that occurred that day the bottom line is we are all Americans and though separated by distance, we were all effected and we'll always continue to remember: *Never Forget.*

Fall FTX

By Cadet John Oemig

The FTX is a weekend long event packed full of activities which give cadets a little insight into what will be expected of them at the Army's Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC). The weekend began with night land navigation, to help cadets develop the skills needed to use a map and compass. Following the land navigation training cadets were given instruction on how to conduct Army battle drills. These drills consist of: squad attack, react to contact, taking out a bunker, reconnaissance, and setting up a road side ambush. The next day started with breakfast followed by day land navigation. After land navigation we conducted squad training exercises (STX) lanes where we practiced the battle drills. STX lanes created team unity, trust in one another, and self confidence. When the weekend was finished everyone felt a strong sense of accomplishment.



Veteran's Day Parade

By Cadet Tara Robertson

November 9, 2008 Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion participated in a parade of remembrance for all of the veterans that have served our country. The Fighting Saints met up at the parking lot in the Veterans Affairs hospital in Saint Cloud, MN to prepare prior to marching in the parade for hundreds of past veterans and families of currently deployed soldiers to show them the honor and respect that they deserve. The origins of Veterans Day traces back to the end of World War I. What Americans celebrate today as Veterans was known as Armistice Day to remember the day that the Treaty of Versailles took place and ended World War I which was known then to be the war to end all wars. Armistice Day was first celebrated on November 11, 1919 when President Wilson proclaimed that to be the day to commemorate all of those that died in service to their country. With Veterans from World War II and the Korean War, President Eisenhower wanted the day of observation of this holiday to be accepted by all veterans and not just Veterans from World War I. So, on June 1, 1954 President Eisenhower changed Armistice Day to what we know today as Veterans Day.



Welcome Our Newest Cadre

Captain Thomas Krenz is the Fighting Saints Battalion Assistant Professor of Military Science. As a Field Artillery Officer, he has served on two combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 to include advising the Iraqi Security Forces on a Division Transition Team as the 8th Iraqi Army Division Fires and Effects Officer, G-1/Personnel, G-5/Civil Affairs, and G-8/finance advisor. Other duties include Firing Platoon Leader, Heavy Equipment Transportation (HET) Company Maintenance Officer, Truck Platoon Leader and Brigade S-1.



CPT Thomas Krenz

Study abroad to Chile

By Cadet Andrea Lieder

Ah Chile, the South American country shaped like a spaghetti noodle with thousands of miles of Pacific Coast that has been my beautiful home for the past four months. Chile has around 16 million inhabitants in total (Minnesota has 14 million), about half of which live in the capital of Santiago. There are four distinct climates: the driest desert in the world called Atacama, the lake region in the south and the Arctic south, called Punta Arenas, near the Straights of Magellan. Vina del Mar, the ocean climate below the desert is where I have studied for the last four months, is the fourth largest city in the entire country. Chile is a globalized third world country considered to be the "developing model for South America." Education and the environment are political "hot topics," victims of the neo liberalism brought on by the 17 year long dictatorship that ended in 1990. The transition back to democracy has been smooth in that Pinochet gave up his power, but the incredible divide between his supporters and those who denounce him is still a lively debate, and it is almost twenty years later. This divide continually asked our group the question of "What really happened in Chile after the day of their military coup, September 11, 1973? Was Pinochet the Dictator good or bad? And have the Chileans really forgotten, or are they just pretending like the coup never happened?" Our study of Memory and Modernity in this country gave me an insight to the culture that to a normal foreigner spending a few days here would never even imagine. Add in the history class I took, political science and cinema and what I have learned about Chile and South America in one semester overall is incredible.

I have learned to speak "Castellano" which, unlike I believed in the past, is nothing like the Spanish I learned in the States. It is "Chilean Spanish," their own language that sounds like Spanish...once you

accustom yourself to the accent and the slang. Coming to Chile, I believed that all of the countries in South America were alike because they all spoke the same language. However, I WAS WRONG. Every country has their own twist to the Spanish language and also to the Latino culture in general in regards to food, drink, and political strife. I was fortunate enough to be here for the Chilean Independence Day celebration in September, and I will be the first to tell you that they know how to celebrate. Sure, closing down Sal's is a late night in Farm Town, Minnesota, but in Chile I am just getting started. And the wine--yes, Chile is wine country. Some of my friends in my group have called me the "wine expert," but to tell you the truth, the secret is that every single bottle is good. Sadly enough, Chile's wine culture is a very globalized market. Americans have given Chile the title of "wine country" and they have in turn adopted it as part of their neoliberal economy in order to bring in more money. Another effect of the neoliberal economy is the inequality of the education system. Whereas the socialism of the 70's and earlier provided the country with equal educational opportunities, the dictatorship made education a business. To get a good education in Chile today, one has to pay for their child to attend a private school like the one my host siblings attend, at least \$400 USD monthly. Apart from the fact that every day has offered something new to learn, whether it was a new word or a huge historic theme, Chile is a beautiful country. I have traveled north and south, across the Andes Mountains to Argentina and by plane to Uruguay, but was always ready to come back to Vina. My host parents say that there is something about Chile that makes the "gringos" as I am so lovingly referred to as here, want to come back to stay.

Alum Notes

The Fighting Saints Battalion held its second annual Alumni Gathering on December 20th. We expected over 70 Alum and their spouses. Despite the snowstorm, over 25 people attended the event which was held at the St. Cloud VFW Post #4847 (East Side). The classes from the 2000's definitely represented themselves well. Everyone had a great time as the food was delicious and the stories were (un)believable. Thank you to the alumni departments at all three schools, as everyone walked away with a giveaway and they helped fund the event. We look forward to seeing you at next year's event on December 19, 2009. Please mark it on your calendar and we challenge each decade of alums to have the most attendees. If you pre-paid for this year's event and could not make it due to the weather, Major Errington has a Fighting Saints etched beer mug for you at the ROTC office.

Other notes: Officers enroute to their Captains Career Course can serve as Hometown Recruiters for a week or so; email us if you are interested. If you would like to come to speak to Cadets or at the monthly AUSA meeting at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club, contact MAJ Errington or Mr. DeJesus at 320-308-3930. Please consider joining our AUSA chapter. Tell your soldiers about Green-to-Gold at SCSU, CSB, or SJU.

We expect to have some seats available at our Military Ball on April 25th, 2009, it would be great if you could join us. Keep checking our website for updates from your brothers and sisters. <http://armyrotc.com/edu/mnstjohns>

Support Your Local Staff Ride

Every year Cadet Command expects MSIV's to study a battle and conduct an on-site staff ride. This helps them learn from history about the challenges and opportunities they might face as officers in wartime.

Our goal is to see one of the most important battlefields in American history: Gettysburg and focus on the heroic actions of the First Minnesota Regiment. Could you help us pay for transportation or lodging?

If you would like to donate to our trip, please make your checks out to "Cadet Battalion Fund" and mail to: Dept of Military Science, ATTN: MAJ Errington, 7099 Guild Hall, Colledgeville, MN 56321, or call MAJ Errington at 320-363-2342.

The donations are tax deductible.



Sights from Fall 2008



New Cadets preparing for the high ropes course.



2007 FSB Ranger Challenge Teams



CDT Christiansen performs the sit-ups event.



CDT Treanor enjoys sipping the grog.



FSB homecoming color guard.



Every Cadet takes part in the CWST.



Cadets training during the Fall FTX and November Lab.



Sept. 11th Ceremony in St. Cloud, MN.



Snow Flake Run at College of St. Benedict.

Veterans' Day / AUSA Dinner

After the Veterans' Day Dinner on November 8th, members of the Fighting Saints' Norberg Chapter Association of the United States Army and the President of AUSA, General Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army (retired), celebrate their victory over the University of Minnesota in the Army Ten-Miler. The Fighting Saints are already training to defend their title next year.



Spring 2009 Events

Spring FTX	April 17-20
Military Ball	April 25
Gettysburg	March 11-15
Bataan, NM	March 28-30
Bataan, MN	TBD
Commissioning	May 10

Do you know a future Cadet?

If you know a young person who has the potential to be an Officer, tell them about us!
They don't have to be from Minnesota!

We have great opportunities for Green-to-Gold;
two/three/or four year scholarships
(CSB/SJU/SCSU even pay for room & board);
and the Simultaneous Membership Program.
Call 320-363-2717 for more info.



Organization

**FIGHTING SAINTS BATTALION
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,
COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT
& ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Cadet Commander's Corner cont'd

As some leave the program, we also have incoming personnel. Take a moment to welcome our newest cadre member CPT Krenz. As I prepare to leave this position there are a couple of last points that I would like to make. First, make sure that you continue to do PT over the holiday break. You have worked hard to achieve the level of fitness you currently hold. Taking a three to four week break from PT will significantly hurt your performance and push back the goals you have set for yourself. Find a partner over the break to exercise with to ensure that you don't give up. Second, take advantage of the cadre we are so lucky to have in our battalion. Every one of the cadre puts cadets first and takes a personal stake in your success. When they are speaking, take the time to listen and learn what they are teaching you. Finally, share your success stories with those around you. You are the best recruiter for our battalion and you can help us find the best candidates that are out there. There have been numerous successful people that have said the best way to success is to surround yourself with successful people.

Have a happy holiday season and enjoy the time that you have with your families. Enjoy your time off, but be ready for another fast paced semester in January.

If you are interested in ROTC or have any questions please feel free to visit our office either at St. John's or St. Cloud University campus. At SCSU we are located downstairs Stewart Hall room 11 and at St. John's we are located downstairs Guild Hall room 20.

This issue was compiled by:
CDT Alex T. Treanor, C/S-5/S-6